

CELEBRATE EASTER

Easter Sunday

**Action and movement are good for the body.
Stillness is good for the soul!**

Being Easter People.....

We began our Lenten Journey with a cross traced in ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. We heard God's call: "Come Home"wherever you may have been and whatever you may have been doing, "Come Home". We met Jesus in different situations during our journey through lent. We heard his word and saw the way he interacted with the world around him. We saw him facing temptations in the dessert, transfigured on the mountain, offering life-giving water to a woman in Samaria, healing a man born blind, raising Lazarus from the dead, riding on an Ass into Jerusalem, celebrating Passover with his disciples and being judged, condemned, crucified and buried.

Our Lenten journey brings us now to Easter - to new life, to new beginnings and to a new presence. We celebrate our call to be an Easter People, a people transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, a people who must continue to journey in faith, in hope and in love. We must move on and meet Jesus, alive, where we are, now, at this point in our history.

The Gospel of Mark (Mark 16:9-15) tells us that Jesus rose from the dead and first appeared to Mary Magdalene, but the followers of Jesus refused to believe her testimony. The disciples did not expect Jesus to be visiting Mary of Magdala after his resurrection.

Two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus had an experience of the risen Jesus, while they were on the road. The disciples did not believe them either.

Be open! The Lord has his own way of surprising us! He comes to us through the most unexpected people, events, places and situations! No one expected to find the messiah in a manger or on the cross....that is just the way God revealed the power of His unconditional, unconquerable, benevolent love for us.

Jesus surprised his disciples again by sending them with his message to fulfill his mission. Men of weak faith, men who could not see beyond their disappointment, men, who did not grasp all that Jesus said to them about his death and resurrection while he was among them, were sent to proclaim the good news of the resurrection!

Don't wait and don't hesitate to share and announce the good news of God's love till you have fully matured in faith!

I wish you a very happy and joy-filled Easter. May the risen Lord bring you the richest and the finest of His blessings during this wonderful season and keep you safe in the center of His love. You and your family are in my prayer especially during this season.

HAPPY EASTER

Acts 10:34-43

Peter spoke to a people who believed that they were the chosen people of God and that they had an exclusive connection with God. His words would have challenged and may even have shattered some of the traditional assumptions with which the listeners had lived. Peter's statements were bold and convincing: Jesus came into the world to teach, to heal, to forgive, to suffer and to die for all – "for all" would have been difficult to accept. Peter spoke of God's universal saving plan in the life death and resurrection of Jesus.

Psalms 118

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
For his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
His mercy endures forever.**

Colossians 3:1-4

The author of this letter calls his readers to live the "risen life" because "you were raised with Christ"...we have died with Christ and are raised up to live in his company, in his presence. To live the risen life is to live as Easter people, people of the resurrection, to live a life of union with Christ, to begin a new way of thinking and acting and relating that is centered on the realities of the Kingdom of God.

John 20:1-9

This excerpt tells us the moving story of Mary of Magdala going to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning and running to Peter and John to tell them that the tomb was empty.

Peter and John went to the tomb and found everything as Mary had described. This excerpt concludes by saying that they believed without understanding the scripture "that he had to rise from the dead".

Real faith is born of relationship. It is not an affirmation or acceptance of doctrines. To believe is to relate...to believe is to trust...to believe is to be intimate...to believe is to

be in communion. Our belief in the resurrection and our commitment to live a resurrected life is the result of our communion with the risen Christ.

Saint of the Day, April 12

St. Teresa of Los Andes and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

Juana Fernández Solar was born on July 13, 1900 in Santiago, Chile. She received her education in a college managed by French nuns from the Sacred Heart order. In 1914, she decided to consecrate herself to the Lord and become a Discalced Carmelite. On December 8, 1915, she made a vow to remain chaste and she renewed it on a regular basis.

On May 7, 1919 she entered the novitiate of the Discalced Carmelites in Los Andes, received the religious name "Teresa of Jesus" and the habit of the Carmelites. Toward the end of her short life the new nun began an apostolate of letter-writing in which she shared her thoughts on the spiritual life. But she soon contracted typhus that was diagnosed as fatal. However, some historians have suggested that she might have contracted Spanish flu, which was devastating Chile at this time. In any case, her condition grew worse on April 2, 1920 - Good Friday. She was still three months short of turning 20 and had six months to complete her canonical novitiate so as to make her religious vows. But she nevertheless was allowed to profess her vows "in danger of death" on April 7, 1920. She died on April 12, 1920, in Los Andes, Chile one week after Easter.

Known as the "Flower of the Andes," Teresa remains popular with the estimated 100,000 pilgrims who visit her shrine in Los Andes each year. Canonized in 1993 by Pope John Paul II, she is Chile's first saint.

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